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## Drive Starts on Insurance Bill Today

By JOHN CRAMER

Sen. Olin Johnston (D., S. C.), the Post Office and Civil Service Committee chairman, and Rep. James Morrison (D., La.) will lead the fight for Government-sponsored health-hospital insurance for Federal employees and their families.

Soon after the new Congress convened today, they planned to introduce a new AFL-CIO sponsored bill calling for:

1. Basic hospital insurance for employees and their families with Government paying two-thirds of the cost.

2. Major medical insurance to pick up where basic insurance leaves off. Government would pay the entire cost.

It was Sen. Johnson and Rep. Morrison who led last year's successful drive for postal and Classified (white collar) Federal employee pay raises.

Mr. Morrison is No. 2 Democrat on the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

### GENEROUS

Their new bill admittedly is a generous one, and undoubtedly will be pared down before finally clearing Congress.

Its basic hospital insurance would offer full 120-day coverage. It would fully insure the employee and his dependents against:

- All costs of hospital care, in semi-private accommodations, for any 120 days of continuous hospitalization—

or for any total of 120 days in periods separated by 90 days or less.

- All medical and surgical services during hospitalization.

- All necessary out-patient care after the employee or his dependents left the hospital.

The bill's major medical insurance would cover 75 per cent of all medical, surgical and hospital expenses incurred after basic insurance had been exhausted.

### EXPENSES

First, however, the employee would have to pay certain "deductible" expenses, graduated according to salary.

Those making under \$6000 would pay \$100.

Those making \$6000 thru \$10,999 would pay \$200.

Those making \$11,000 or more would pay \$300.

Government's share of the combined basic-major medical cost would be limited to \$2.50 per bi-weekly pay period for an individual employee, and to \$7 bi-weekly for an employee with dependents.

The employee's share (one-

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third of basic insurance cost) would be paid via payroll deductions.

Counted as dependents would be the spouses of insured employees; unmarried children under 19; children under 23 enrolled full-time in college and dependent on the parent for at least half of their support; and disabled unmarried children, who, since 19 or earlier, have been dependent on the parent for at least half of their support.

### BENEFITS

The Johnson-More bill also would benefit a large number of retired employees—those still carrying acceptable health insurance coverage which went into effect at least one year before they retired.

They would continue to pay the rates they now pay. But they would get the full benefit of the new program, including its major medical features.

All costs of the extra insurance provided them would be borne by the Government.

The bill would give employees a free choice of four different types of basic insurance:

1. The so-called service type, provided by Blue Cross, Blue Shield and similar organizations.

2. The cash indemnity type provided by insurance companies.

3. Plans sponsored or underwritten by Federal employee organizations.

4. Group practice pre-payment plans, such as the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York.

In addition, employees would have the annual option of transferring from one plan to another.

AFL-CIO unions explain that this would mean the employees would "not become the permanent captives" of any single type of plan.

And the Government would not be put in the position of promoting one type of insurer at the expense of another.